cultural year 1993-94 and 1994-95 (likely) is as follows:

Year	Production (million tonnes)	
	Wheat	Paddy
1993-94	5 .13	118.46
1994-95 (likely)	6 .18	121.52

(b) The demand for rice and wheat at a given point of time depends upon the number of factors like; size of population and its characteristics, price behaviour, consumers' taste, availability of substitutes and other related economic factors. The total demand for foodgrains for 1994 has been provisionally estimated at 175.1 million tonnes. The demand for total foodgrains in 1995-96 is likely to increase by about 2.50 to 2.70 per cent over 1994-95 depending upon the increase in population, rise in per capita income and level of prices.

(c) The demand for essential foodgrains is largely met internally except some minor import of pulses.

(d) As per present assessment total production of foodgrains during 1994-95 is estimated to be about 186.35 million tonnes.

Production of Wool

8321. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wool produced in the country particularly in the State of Punjab during the last three years State-wise/district-wise;

(b) whether the wool is exported to other countries;

(c) if so, the quantity of wool exported during the above mentioned period;

(d) whether any assistance is being given by Government to the wool manufacturers' of the Punjab State;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to boost its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (f) The information is being collected from the organisations concerned and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Price of Dhara

8322. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil product 'DHARA' is being sold at higher price than other oil products; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether NDDB is doing trading in oil market or intervening in the market when prices have gone up; and

(c) whether farmers or consumers have received any benefit out of this system adopted by NDDB, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Market Intervention Operations (MIO) of NDDB came to an end on 31-3-94. after completion of the 5 year period. NDDB is now marketing Dhara brand of edible oils on its own account on commercial basis.

Illegal export of medical herbs

8323. DR. ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Doctors Association of Indian System of Medicine in a recent communication to the Minister has alleged that medicinal herbs costing rupees two hundred crores have been exported illegally every year as reported in Hindustan Times dated 11-4-95;

(b) if so, remedial steps which have been taken to check the illicit traffiking of medicinal herbs; and

(c) the role of officials of the Forest Department to check the theft of medicinal plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The export consignment of medicinal, plants, even if declared by their local names, are subjected to preshipment examination by the Customs and Wildlife authorities since April, 1, 1994 when the ban was imposed. Export of 6 species listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was banned earlier. Preshipment inspection is carried out to ensure that only the permitted species are exported and that all necessary documentation has been produced.

Children working in brackish water

8324. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted with regard to the children working in brackish water for Prawn seed thereby suffering from gastro-enteritis, skin diseases, week eye-sight and back pain; and

(b) if so, what preventive measures have been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Shortage of cement in Latur for reconstruction

8325. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'Asian Age' dated the 7th March 1995 under the heading 'Cement shortage hampers Laur reconstruction';

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the required quantity of cement has since been made available; and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the entire construction work would be over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) According to the information received from the State Government of Maharashtra, shortage of Cement was experienced in the month of February, 1995. Thereafter, a meeting of all major cement manufacturers was called by the State Government on 8th March, 1995 in which regular supply of cement was assured. As a result of this, sufficient quantity of cement is being received and as of now there is no shortage of cement. During the period 15th March to 9th May, 1995, 2348 M.T. of cement was received for Latur district. The work of reconstruction of houses in relocated and non-relocated villages, will be completed by 30th June, 1997, as per the loan agreement signed with the World Bank authorities.

Un-chlorinated Water Supply in IARI

8326. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Water Supply in Chiria Colony of IARI, Pusa, New Delhi through tubewells maintained by the CPWD is not chlorinated which has led to a sudden spurt in Gastro-enteritis cases in these places;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) & (b) Water is being supplied to the Chiria Colony which is one of the residential